

10/1/73

Dear Jim,

Got your letter of the 27th four hours ago, read it then, and respond now with the regrettably necessary haste. I'm too deep in complicated writing to let any of it out of my mind and it takes much time. I do, much, appreciate your taking the time for so good an account of the Garrison trial.

Before I forget, now that you are back in the N.O. area - I didn't know that even with I 10 Jackson was so neas - perhaps it might be fun and informative if you could finixx find time for a visit with your old friend Bringuer. Engaged him in conversation about the Cuban Watergate victims, those who have been so harshly discriminated against by being locked in jail while those more responsible and of higher station and not of Cuban birth roan free. If you were sufficiently fascinated by the story-book career of Eduardo, E. Howard Hunt, he might be able to provide some information. One of the things that could be of interest is if he was even in New Orleans and particularly beginning in 1965 and toward the end of 1967 and any time thereafter. He and Bringueir enjoy a common view of life and politics. If you have got kept up with this, let me know and I'll fill you in.

Your account of Garrison personally fails to adjust to one thing; he has serious emotional problems. He is brilliant. He is personable. He can be charming. All these things are true. But he is also paranoid and is dominated by an uncontrolled ego. These things are no more criminal or wrong than a broken leg. I am not criticizing him for them. However, you should not be overwhelmed and should preserve an independence of judgement of the advice and opinions he gives.

I am quite pleased with his acquittal. I believe it is less than full justice. If I did not know him as I do I'd offer some further suggestions. Drawing upon a painful experience I will not even offer them. He was being polite when he described me as a "sweet guy." He doesn't really believe this and I have reason to be certain he thinks the opposite. Were you ever to suggest that he is less than sainted, you'd get a different reception. At the same time, I offer the opinion that his defense was less definitive than it could have been because he does believe as he told you about the law. I take time to disagree with this in your interest. He is right in telling you to learn all you can about the Constitution, but he is quite wrong in telling you to do as little as you can get away with on procedures. Had he been the victim of a more professional frame-up, he'd not have been as easily acquitted. If you adjudge a three-day deliberation easy. Besides, few men as as gifted with bag as Jim, so few men can get away with a dependence upon eloquence. You have to master the means of any craft, and with the law, one of the prime means is procedures. It is like trying to assemble some electronics equipment without a schematic diagram. In evaluating his advice, as yourself what the end would have been if instead of Gervais there had been an Ivon framing him?

I believe Guy Johnson's testimony. Nowing him I'd say he understated. I know he was sick when Gervais first saw him but until your letter didn't know why. By the way, I think it is good for N.O. that Ivon is running for criminal sheriff. He'll be a better one than anyone I know there. Hope he makes it. If you see him, give him my best.

Procedures again: I don't know if it would have done you any good in a place like Huston, but anyone is entitled to know the charges against any accused and the law requires that specific charges be filed. But they got away with refusing to tell you. If you'd said you gotta, they'd probably have called you red. She told me the bail is \$160,000. That should mean at least murder. The first charge she said was something on dope. Details of the allegations are properly not public until trial. So, it can be helpful to know procedures. How do you think the lawyers for the accused radicals can ever prevail against framings? So, keep an open mind and drink in all you can about the law. Thanks for taking the time. I look forward to reading more about the trial. Best,